

practice is to do what a follower does...namely the will of the one whom he follows. In addition he seeks to be like the leader in the practical sense of imitation and development. This is one of the happier aspects of our experience. We will some day be "like Him," and for the present we are already "followers" in this special sense. The believer must be aware of it and prayerfully hope to see it shown in the path of daily living.

VII. The Position and Practice of A Servant.

Romans 12, in view of some particular passages giving the broader concept.

A. Introduction

The position of the servant is broadened by the understanding of John 15:15 where the Lord informed His own that they were not servants in the servile sense as they were members of the Divine company. They are called "friends." But His own warnings to them in this chapter as in chapter 13 were to think of themselves in a servant capacity as even the Lord fulfilled this role. So we may speak of our selves as "servant-friends", "bond-servants," etc., and have a good grip on the general topic.

The matter of service and position is seen well in Romans 12 but there are some principles to be born in mind first, from the Gospel accounts. Matthew 20:20-29 makes it plain that the key to being a successful servant is to give oneself to the community, not to seek a place of "lordship." John 13:13-16 helps us understand that a true servant is one who serves as the Master served and John 15:20 forces us to remember that we cannot expect to be better treated than the Lord was. In short, the servant should be prepared to serve and receive the same sort of reward as did the Lord's perfect servant. That should be enough for him. His greatness will lie in humility and yieldedness.